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in the news

INSIDE

Fine acting was featured in the one act plays presented last weekend by the Dramashop. All three plays dealt with the complex relations between men and women.

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New classifications for property tax assessment may cost the fraternities a great deal of money, according to Interfraternity Council Chairman Joe Chapman '79.

p8

The Women's Volleyball team decisively defeated Wellesley 3-1 at Tuesday's tournament, thereby recovering from a three loss streak last weekend.

p12

WEATHER

After a cool morning, winds will begin to shift to the west, and finally to the southwest on Friday. Highs today near sixty, under mostly sunny skies. Seasonable temperatures tonight in the upper forties to near fifty in the city. For Saturday, warm and pleasant. Partly cloudy with temperatures approaching seventy. Lows Saturday night in the low to mid fifties. For Sunday, beautiful again with highs near seventy.

Chance of rain diminishing to ten percent by this afternoon, twenty percent Saturday and Sunday.

EXCERPTS

Giving tours through the Museum of Science with a snake wrapped around her neck was a co-op possibility, according to a nursing student.

It wasn't quite the type of co-op job Patricia M. Anglin, N 80, was looking for.

Anglin said she declined the offer made last December by Helen L. Ross, an assistant co-op coordinator.

"I said I really didn't like snakes," said Anglin.

"That's when my second offer came," she said. "She (Ross) asked if I'd like to work undercover in a pizza parlor, watching the goings-on of the customers. I said, 'lady, after three months of working in a pizza parlor I'd weigh 300 pounds.'"

"She said, 'you're getting awfully picky, I hope you realize,'" said Anglin.

— Shelley Murphy

The Northeastern News

Grades redefined by faculty vote

By Richard Duffy

The Ad Hoc Committee on Grading's proposal to redefine the letter grades given by the Institute was passed by a vote of 80 to 49 at the faculty meeting Wednesday afternoon. The motion passed by two votes more than the necessary three fourths majority of those present and voting.

After the meeting, Committee on Educational Policy Chairman Robert Hulsizer said it was "uncertain" as to exactly when the passed motion would become effective.

The second motion, proposing that grade distribution percentages for the most recent term be placed next to each subject on students' transcripts, was defeated 76-51 after much discussion.

Professor of Management Zenon Zannetos, the grading committee's chairman, withdrew the third motion as "not making sense" immediately after the vote on the second motion. This last was a proposal that the Registrar "develop a method for storing the information" provided by the second proposal "for the student's whole academic history." Such information would have been used only for internal MIT purposes.

Hulsizer proposed an amendment to the motion on grade redefinitions, which was actually more of a substitute than an amendment. Rather than the detailed definitions proposed by the grading committee, the CEP suggested the use of "A — passed with exceptionally good performance; B — ... good performance; C — ... adequate performance; and D — ... minimally adequate performance."

The amendment was the first item voted on, and barely failed with a 63 to 66 vote. Unlike the grading committee's proposals, this only needed a simple majority to pass. Professor of Philosophy Richard Cartwright complained that the longer grade definitions are effectively the same as the short ones proposed in the CEP amendment as they both use terms like "superior/good/adequate," which are of little value in determining cut-off points between grade levels.

Zannetos mentioned that the actual wording of the grade redefinitions was changed several times due to earlier input from the CEP and from the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science. He said that grades should be an indication of the

A
B
C
D
P

Exceptionally good performance, demonstrating a superior understanding of the subject matter, a foundation of extensive knowledge, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials.

Good performance, demonstrating capacity to use the appropriate concepts, a good understanding of the subject matter, and an ability to handle the problems and materials encountered in the subject.

Adequate performance, demonstrating an adequate understanding of the subject matter, an ability to handle relatively simple problems, and adequate preparation for moving on to more advanced work in the field.

Minimally acceptable performance, demonstrating at least partial familiarity with the subject matter and some capacity to deal with relatively simple problems, but also demonstrating deficiencies serious enough to make it inadvisable to proceed further in the field without additional work.

When the use of the single passing grade P is authorized, it may reflect performance at any of the levels, A, B, C, D.

matter, and should not simply be given to meet quotas or normal distribution curves.

Zannetos also emphasized that part of the reason behind the proposed inclusion of grade distribution data on internal records is that grading policy at MIT is quite varied from department to department and professor to professor. This "decentralized

grading situation needs to be preserved and strengthened," he said.

Professor of Physics Thomas Greytak, a member of the ad hoc grading committee, described the second and third proposals (grade distribution reporting and internal storage) as "an experiment for internal use." He said that place-

(Please turn to page 2)

Brass Rats race in annual 2.70 contest

By Gordon Haff

About this time every year, a group of students prepare for MIT's biggest spectator sport. It is the 2.70 design contest, the climax of the mechanical engineering department's introduction to design course.

Every year, the contest follows a similar pattern. The students in the course are each given a "kit" from which a device must be built to accomplish a stated objective. These "kits" contain the widest variety of odds and ends imaginable. They include rubber bands (which cannot be used to power this year's devices), computer cards, tongue depressors, magnetic tape, masonite, and dozens of other items. This year the power sources are two Vulcan constant force springs and an SX-70 motor donated by the Polaroid Corp.

In this year's contest the two competing "things" (as the devices are called) are placed side by side at one end of an eight foot trough filled with styrofoam pellets. The object of the competition is for each "thing" to push a brass rat as far from the starting position as possible. The two rings are connected by a length of rubber tubing which passes through a pulley attached to the end wall of the trough. Thus the further a person moves his brass rat, the more he hinders his opponent.

A ten second burst of power is supplied to the "thing." A solenoid then activates a catch, which in turn sets in motion a stored power source within the "thing." The "things" must stop moving within twenty seconds of the original application of power. The "thing" which moves its brass rat the farthest wins.

Professor of Mechanical Engineering Woodie Flowers, who has been running the course since 1971, the second year of the contest, says that "there are no big changes this year, but we keep

(Please turn to page 2)



2.70 students are busy testing their "things" in preparation for next Tuesday's "The Brass Rat Race" Room 26-100. (Photo by Gordon Haff.)

LOGO dying from lack of grant funds

By Kevin Osborne

Many people have heard about the "turtles" developed at MIT, but few understand how they are implemented, and even fewer know what LOGO is. This is quite unfortunate for the LOGO group at MIT's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, which has been doing research in the education of children. The LOGO project may soon be ended because the essential funding and support are falling off rapidly.

LOGO was initiated in late 1971 under a National Science Foundation grant with the purpose of developing a computer laboratory for elementary school children and studying its use in the teaching of mathematics, art, music, and in thinking itself. LOGO was also the name of the advanced computer language developed by this group for use in "turtles," small computer-controlled devices that the children were able to control by writing procedures (programs) on

the computer. The turtle has a retractable pen, enabling the children to trace the turtle's path, thus introducing "turtle" geometry. By writing their own programs to draw pictures, both with the turtles and on the graphics terminals, to do mathematical applications, to play music on music synthesis peripherals, and to simulate physical systems, the children were able to learn geometry, art, mathematics and even some algebra, music and physics. It was hoped that the computer would provide a rich and challenging environment in which students would learn and expand their talents rapidly.

LOGO was initially a success. It interested the children and they faced the challenge with determination and vigor. Talents began to develop, and children thought to have learning disabilities displayed normal or even superior progress.

The LOGO group also learned

much about the human learning process by observing the children, enabling LOGO and others to improve educational methods implemented in their programs.

Two years ago, much of LOGO's funding was withdrawn. With only one major grant left, LOGO began to decay. Children no longer come to the lab to utilize the full LOGO facility because the lack of funding has caused much of the equipment to lie in ill repair.

Determined to make a go of it, the LOGO group launched their most detailed study to date. Using a portable LOGO system, they went into the Brookline Public Schools and proceeded to study, in detail, the progress of sixteen fifth-grade children using the LOGO system.

Delays within the National Science Foundation caused parts of this study to be curtailed, but the project is continuing on a very tight budget.

"Things" push class rings

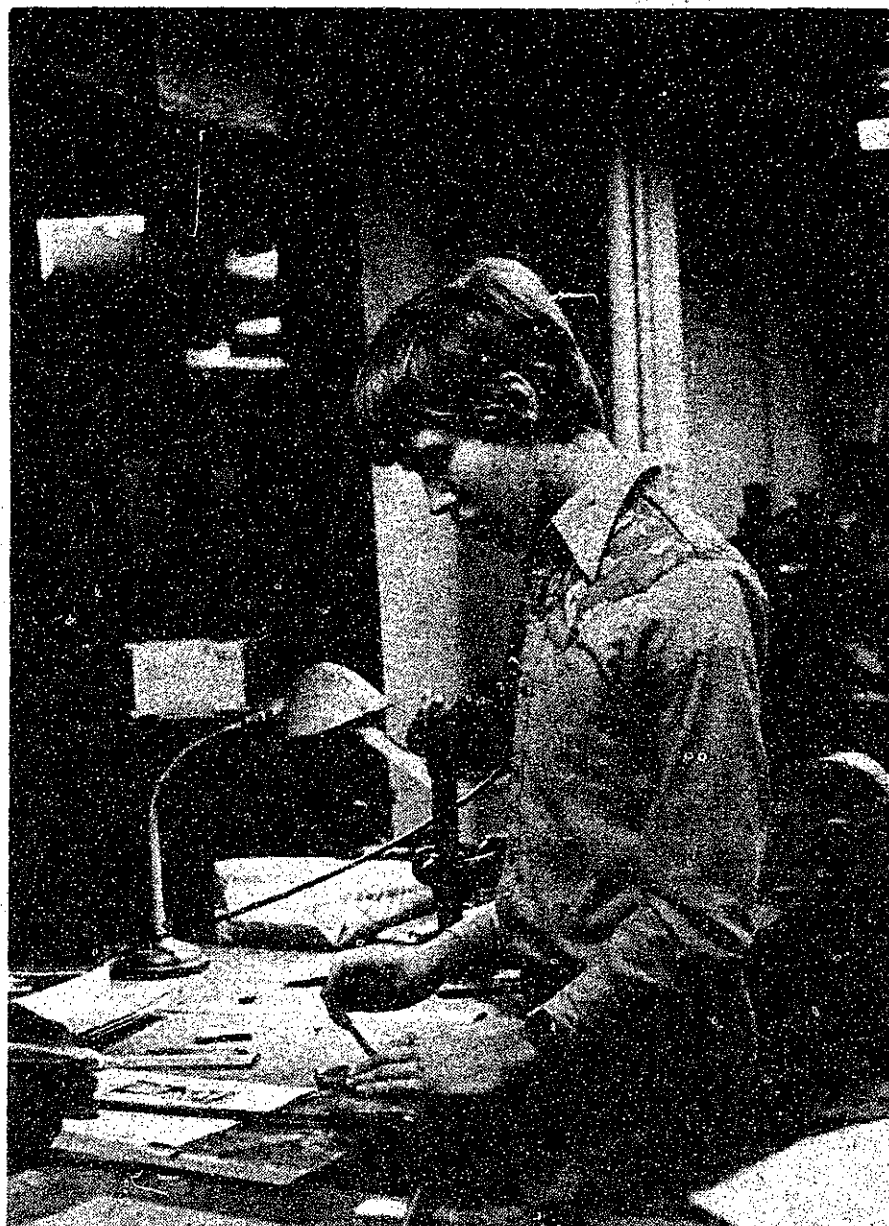
(Continued from page 1)
trying to make subtle refinements." He added that this year they had tried to "give the students more options, but we hope that they don't become burdens."

From the looks of many of the "things" being worked on in woodworking and metalworking shops around the Institute, Flowers has certainly succeeded in creating a greater variety of entrants. This year's contest has certain similarities to last year's, which used only a motor as a power source, so it is not surprising that there are a large number of near carbon-copies of last year's successful designs. Students have also built everything from catapults to extending rods to take advantage of the greater flexibility provided in the power sources this year, however.

As the time of the contest approaches, it becomes literally a 24 hour a day enterprise for many students. Early in the course they learn a basic rule of 2.70 — the time required for glue to dry is inversely proportional to the time remaining until the contest. In the days immediately before the competition, sleep is garnered in short spurts while "five minute epoxy" takes thirty minutes to harden.

Is this heads-up competition important to the contest? Flowers thinks it is. He said that "the contest is a nice way the end [the course]. Students have worked hard and done their best. It would be a pity to end it in any way that was not climactic." He added, however, that "we try to get the contest out of their minds when it is over."

The 2.70 approach to a design course is still an unusual one, although Princeton copied MIT's contest last year. This year, both Princeton and Wentworth are having similar contests. Flowers said he feels that the 2.70 approach is the best way to run a design course. He continued that ideally "it would be nice to have a student go through the design of a real machine. However, it would



With less than a week until the 2.70 contest, its students are busy putting finishing touches on pushing devices they have been working on all term. (Photo by Gordon Haff.)

cost a mint and take a long time." He terms the 2.70 contest "an abbreviated version of a real design problem."

Flowers is especially pleased with the use of the SX-70 motors during the contest this year and last because motors are used in many real design problems.

However, Flowers sees problems arising for the course in the future because of ever increasing enrollment. He said he feels strongly that design must be taught on an individual basis. This year's 175 student require thirteen sections with eleven

faculty members. This problem is caused by both growing enrollment in mechanical engineering and by the fifteen percent of the 2.70 class from other departments.

As it is, the larger enrollment results in contests which are not only instructive and exciting to watch, but which can be run through quickly. Last year, the effective machines made it to the top of the hill in less than two seconds, power was only on for ten seconds at a time, and the contests were run through at a rate of about two per minute.

Faculty passes grade proposal

(Continued from page 1)
ment of distribution data on external transcripts would only have been considered after several years of internal use and evaluation.

The student representatives of the grading committee both spoke against the second motion. Tom Davidson G said that he couldn't see how "grade deflation" could solve problems such as the wide disparity between the proportionate percentages of A's and B's given by various departments. Drew Friery '79 said he could "not support the external release of grade distributions."

Hulsizer mentioned that if the atmosphere of competition between students could be prevented from worsening, he would like to see the implementation of two separate grade reports — one a purely objective report and the other an evaluation emphasizing a student's performance relative to that of others.

The faculty meeting had relatively good attendance, with 129 faculty members present and about two thirds that many students.

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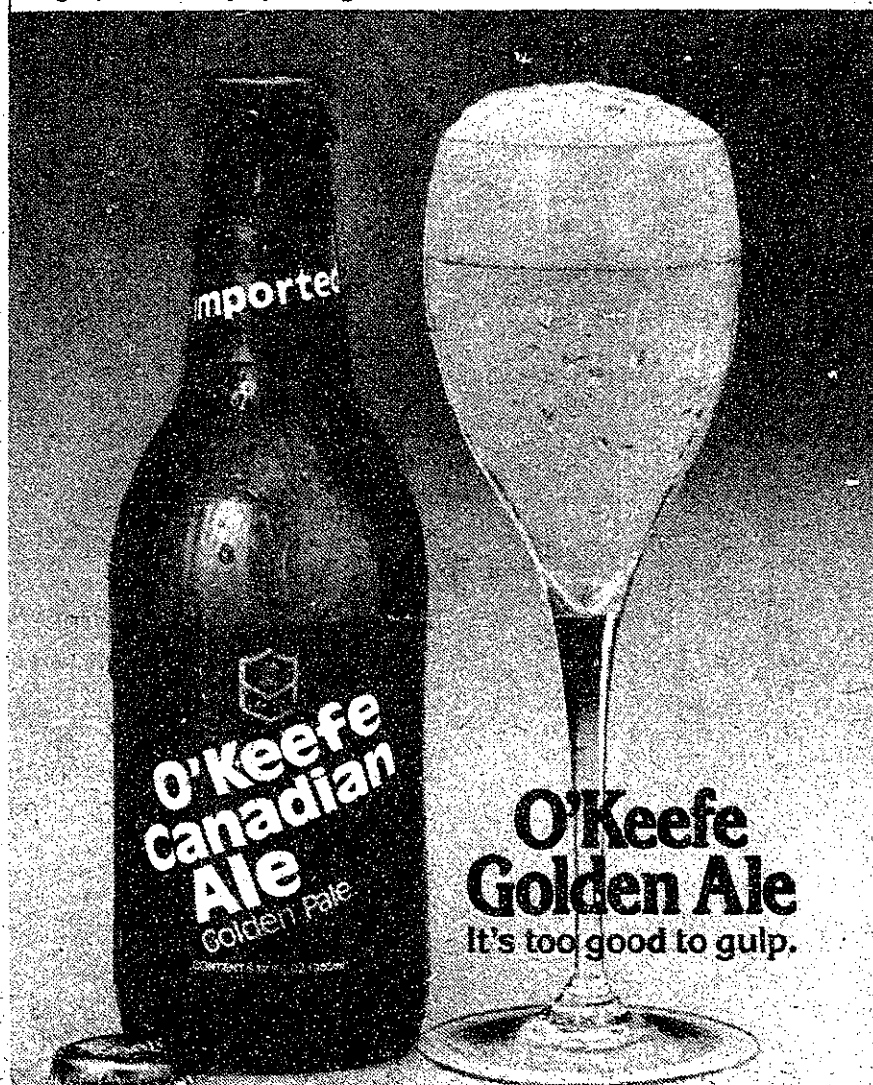
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INTERVIEWING

EE, ME, Physics BS and MS

October 26, 1978

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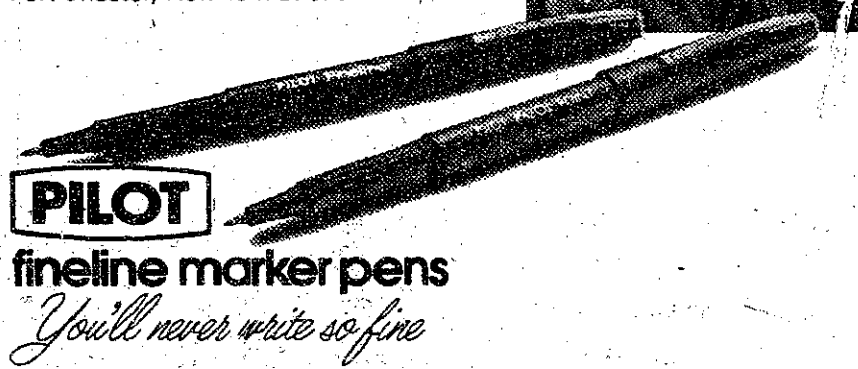
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news roundup

World

Soviets offer new SALT proposal — The Soviets recently advanced a new strategic arms limitations plan which apparently is more reasonable to the US. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has dropped insistence on range limitation on the US air-launched cruise missile — which he refused before — but continued to urge acceptance of the Backfire bomber. It is hoped that this and remaining issues can be settled this weekend when US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Gromyko meet so that when President Carter and President Leonid Brezhnev meet in six weeks, accord can be achieved.

Karpov wins world chess title match. — Soviet grandmaster Anatoly Karpov, 27, emerged as the champion from a three-month title match against the Soviet defector, 47-year-old Viktor Korchnoi. Korchnoi, who complained of psychological trickery, resigned after the 32nd game. Both Korchnoi, a resident of Switzerland, and Karpov, winner of the match and of \$400,000, are scheduled to play soon at the chess olympiad in Buenos Aires.

Nation

Federal government to pay for Maine Indian claims — The Federal government, not the state of Maine, will pay \$27 million to the Maine Indian tribes — the Penobscot and the Passamaquoddy — as well as 40,000 hectares of land worth \$10,000,000. Agreement was finally reached after the 10-year-old land claims on almost 5 million hectares of land and \$12 billion in retributions was settled last Wednesday.

Local

King lead over Hatch decreasing. — With 18 days left until the election, Democrat Edward King has a substantially lower margin over the other major contender, Republican Francis Hatch Jr.. In the Clark poll taken earlier this week, of those who were "highly likely" to vote, King had a 40% to 39% lead with 21% undecided. This sharply contrasts the polls taken three weeks before, where King was ahead by 25%-32%.

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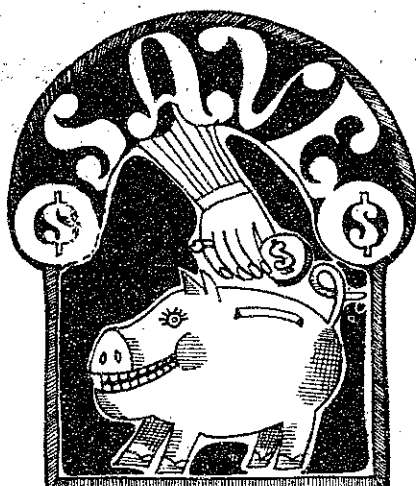


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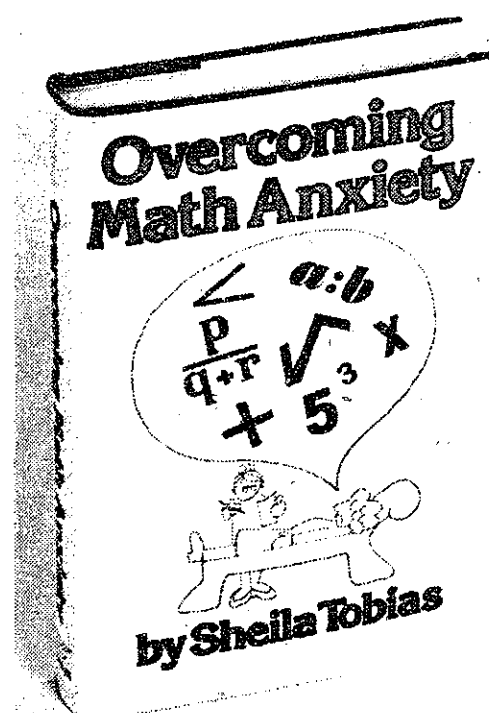
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Requiem for an endangered fish

By Bob Wasserman

The days of the snail darter, a three-inch fish native to the waters of the Little Tennessee River, are numbered. The US House of Representatives voted last weekend to exempt the Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee from the Endangered Species Act, thereby allowing the completion of the dam, flooding the only known natural habitat of the darter.

The entire environmental drama began five years ago when a new species of fish, christened the snail darter, was discovered in the waters of the Little Tennessee River. The river, however, was about to be closed by the \$116 million Tellico Dam which was half completed. The darter immediately fell under the protection of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, and this June the US Supreme Court stopped construction of the dam because it would destroy the fish's natural habitat.

Congress, always favorable to federally-funded development projects, soon rebelled against the snail darter. Rep. John Duncan (R-Ten.) sponsored last week's

something else

House action, reasoning that millions had already been spent on the Tellico Dam and "it is high time to reap the benefits of this investment." More generally, the legislation will also give the Interior and Commerce Departments the power to exclude any portion of a proposed project from the Endangered Species Act if the agency determined the benefits from exclusion would outweigh the environmental benefits of preserving the species' habitat.

Although the House bypassed the Endangered Species Act by approving the Tellico Dam, they also extended the program for three more years, dispelling doubts that the act might lose its funding and thus its power. The act currently employs almost two hundred Interior Department staff and field agents, who enforce the bill for the 700 present endangered species and search for and classify new ones. The nature of a bureaucracy, of course, is to perpetuate itself, and this section of Interior is planning on adding 1,000 more plants and one hundred new animal species to the current list.

The Supreme Court decision in favor of the Endangered Species Act may also force Congress to re-consider several other projects. Whooping cranes, only recently making a comeback, are endangered by the Narrows Dam in Colorado and the Graylocks project slightly north. The Air Force space shuttle program, currently having funding problems, is further encumbered by the environmental effects on brown pelicans and peregrine falcons of its California site. The most interesting case outside of the snail darter, though, is the \$560 million Dickey-Lincoln Dam in Maine, which imperils the little known furbish lousewort.

Most of the environmental issues of these projects go beyond a single endangered species. The snail darter is only symbolic of the ecological effect of the Tellico Dam, which was planned originally with little concern for the environment of the Little Tennessee. S. David Freeman, the pro-environment chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, has suggested that the dam might not have to be closed, leaving the river free-flowing and preserving the snail darter's environment. Representative Duncan assured Congress last week that the Tellico Dam should be finished, for "the snail darter is alive and prospering in areas other than the Little Tennessee River." There is little doubt that the action necessary for this relocation would not have been taken were it not for the bite of the Endangered Species Act.

On a broader level, the Endangered Species Act is a boon to environmentalists. There are too few weapons poorly funded and understaffed environmental agencies can use to question the ecological impact of a dam or a resource development project. The Endangered Species Act offers a simple, effective case against a sloppily-designed federal project, and the Supreme Court has made the act a powerful piece of legislation by their ruling this June in favor of the snail darter.

The battle over the act still rages in Congress, however. President Carter recently vetoed a public works bill which provided for various "pork barrel" projects in several states. Furthermore, the Interior's possible expanded list of snail darters and furbish louseworts may tie up future projects. With some of their pet projects already shot down, it's a good bet that Congressmen will think twice before passing any new environmental legislation.



SA divestment? Think again

By Arthur Hu

And now, from the people who brought you the Grog Incident: The South Africa Scandal. Here's the pitch "This institution is profiting from the misery of thousands through investments in such cruel corporations as GM, GE, and Ford. Yes, friends, your family car, and the light bulb you are reading by are glaring symbols of the worst form of inhumanity ever seen. Join our noble crusade, and we will defeat this evil."

I'm sorry to be sarcastic, but the South Africa protests at MIT are starting to take on a disturbing shape. I'll be the first to agree that

hunger, poverty, and discrimination should be stopped, but I'm not sold on divestment, or wholesale condemnation of South Africa. Why should this nation be singled out, when many "people's" governments are worse without even trying? Ending apartheid will not mean salvation any more than the ending of slavery in the United States was supposed to liberate blacks, or any more than Rhodesia's relaxation of racial restrictions will make blacks instantly as rich as whites.

In the United States, an alarming proportion of blacks remain in poverty. Less is spent on education for blacks, and their wages remain much lower on the average than those of whites. South African homelands are nowhere near as barren as the places we set aside for native Americans. And clearly, child starvation and mass unemployment are not unique to South Africa. Though South African blacks' rights seem miniscule, there was a time when workers here did not have any particular rights.

A recent handout of the Coalition against Apartheid in South Africa proclaims that blacks there earn 1/10 the wage of whites at equivalent jobs, clearly too low, since the per capita income ratio comes out to be one to fourteen. While they don't predominate, black professionals and college students do exist. The handout implies "civilian" aircraft are military equipment, but "civilian" aircraft means Boeing 747's for South African Airways, for tourists, and for business travelers. (Of course, they can carry cruise missiles with neutron warheads...) Maritime strike planes meant to cover strategic shipping lanes are portrayed as "specially designed for suppressing uprisings." "Security vehicles" means Opels and

Fiestas, and "Polaroid" means SX-70's and One-Steps, in addition to the Coalition's infamous ID, which is also widely used in US industry.

Why are US companies in South Africa: For cheap labor? If you've ever bought something Made In Taiwan/Japan/Hong Kong, etc., think again. Natural resources? We robbed the Arabs for decades before they caught on. Does it ever occur to people that it is normal for US firms to set up operations in industrialized, western countries? US firms take no particular joy in the fact that blacks are oppressed,

a government as firmly entrenched as the South African one.

Companies like Ford and GM are the lifeblood of the United States, and stand for much that is good. MIT's earnings from investments go back to benefit the students, and to say that the bulk of this money is "paid for" by the misery of thousands is a gross distortion. If anything, divestment would hurt MIT far more than South Africa.

People have got to stop running around like chickens with their heads cut off, and look at things rationally, not emotionally. South Africa needs more, not fewer jobs, and pulling out won't help. Even racists are human (sadly, being inhuman is part of being human), and upon closer examination, there are signs of hope that a peaceful and orderly incorporation of blacks is possible in South Africa. The last thing the blacks need is a "democratic people's government," a government which has never been able to uphold individual rights, much less run a viable industrial economy.

By and large, South African blacks want the United States to stay. Though it may not seem like it, American corporations are one of the few important positive influences in South Africa, and if there is to be hope that all blacks will be able to get decent jobs, corporations must stay and continue to improve opportunities for blacks.

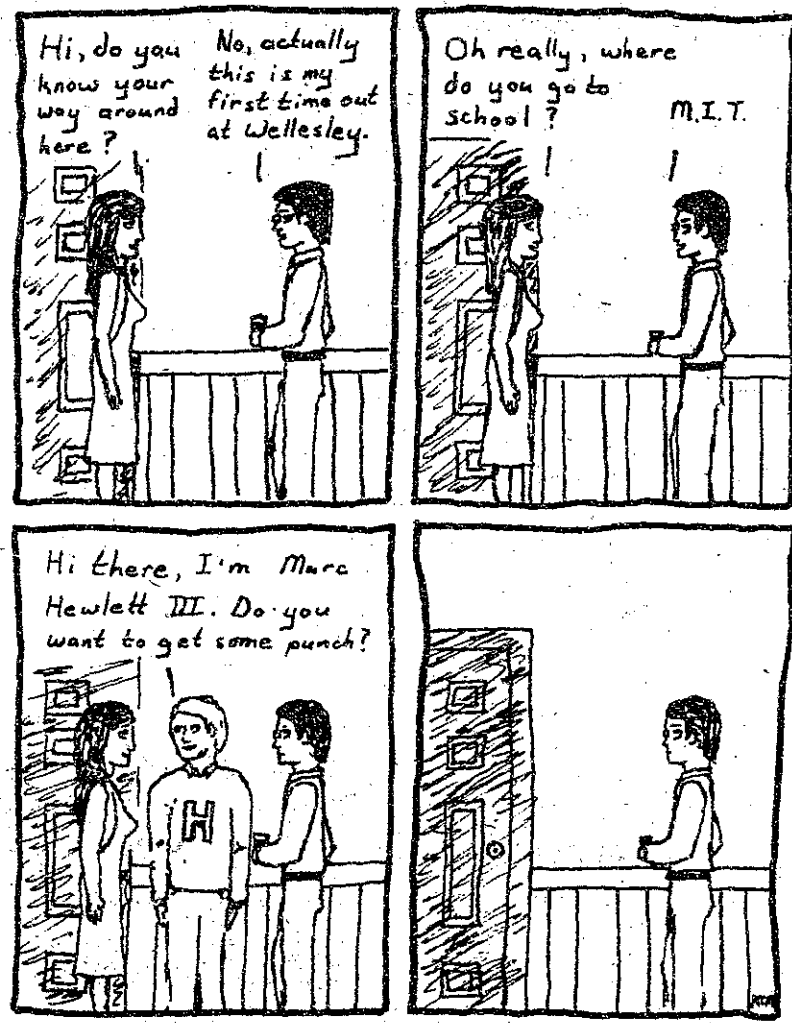
perspectives

but who are they to dictate to the host government? Despite their condemnation of South Africa, most black African nations depend upon South Africa's industrial capacity for survival. South Africa is the only nation around with any industrial capacity worth speaking of, and one of the handful with anything even remotely resembling a democratic government.

Slogans like "Death to Apartheid" may be stirring, but without constructive solutions, they don't mean a thing. MIT's divestment will not produce an effective boycott, and no effective US boycott, let alone the ineffective world boycott which has been in effect since the '50's, will topple

Paul Hubbard

by Kent C. Massey



The Tech

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Corning Glass Works representatives will be in room 12-170 of the Career Planning and Placement Office October 26, 1978 to discuss career opportunities with senior and graduate engineers.

CORNING

Dramashop shines in season opening

By Margie Beale

The MIT Dramashop opened its 1978-79 performance season on October 12 with an enjoyable evening of thoughtfully selected and perceptively interpreted one-act plays, all exploring the relationships of various couples, both heterosexual and homosexual.

The evening begins with a brief curtain-opener, *For Ever and Ever*, a vignette in which two young lovers exchange affectionate engagement vows and discuss their future together. Although not extremely original, the material is fairly clever, and definitely relevant for a college audience. Michael Guerette and Victoria Chang seem rather awkward and adolescent in their roles at first, until it becomes evident that this youthful uneasiness was precisely the desired effect. The two are inconsistent in keeping up the tempo of the dialogue, and thus the material drags in spots, but their performances are generally charismatic

and humorous. The twittering of ubiquitous spring birds adds an amusing touch in the more fatuously romantic moments.

Sacred Ground, the second piece, is a far more serious treatment of romance. Set in the 1890's, it is the story of a weak, jealous husband who discovers that his beloved wife, Anna, has never loved him, and has caused the suicide of her lover through letters she has written him, purely from a sense of duty to her husband, rejecting his affection.

Here, Susan Downing gives a witty, if somewhat brief performance as Madelena, the servant girl who continually bothers Paolo, the jealous spouse, with details of village gossip concerning the death of his wife's lover. Mario, Paolo's brother, is played with a great deal of consistency by Ron Lyon, who is to be commended for his sense of timing and his sensitivity to the dynamics of a scene. Barbara Masi portrays Anna, the dutiful, yet un-

faithful wife, with a remarkable amount of dignity. Hers is a finely-drawn characterization which makes her more thoroughly convincing than the other performers in this play. Steve Solnick delivers a sensitive and humorous, yet somewhat uncertain performance as the tormented and ineffectual Paolo. He is quite amusing in the scenes with Susan Downing, but loses his rhythm in his dialogues with Ron Lyons. However, his scenes with Barbara Masi are obviously well-rehearsed, both he and she do some excellent acting together.

Still, the final play, Harold Pinter's *The Collection* is the highlight of the evening. The play, and exploration into the delicate balance of emotions and the exquisite uncertainties that make up human relationships, is consummately well-constructed, and is given a beautifully modulated, subtly clever interpretation by its cast. Bill and Harry, two homosexual dress designers played by Albert Ruesga and Steve Bertozzi, respectively, become involved with James and Stella, played by Mark Schafer and Joanne Baldine, after

Bill and Stella meet at a design show in Leeds.

James must know whether his wife has gone to bed with Bill, and determines to meet the designer to find out the truth. Bill and Jim are truly funny in their initial encounter, for Ruesga's portrayal of the easily intimidated, rather sheepish Bill is in marvelous contrast to Mark Schafer's brilliantly distracted and insistently curious James. Steve Bertozzi is properly prissy as Harry, while Joanne Baldine speaks eloquently through her facial expressions as the disconsolate and insecure Stella. The more laughable moments in the play are wittily played, but unfortunately, Pinter's bizarre humor is often played up to the point that some of the play's more sinister aspects are obscured.

Despite flaws, the work of the MIT Dramashop evidences much talent and careful, sensitive evaluation of dramatic material. If its next major production, Aristophanes' *The Frogs*, to be performed on November 16, 17 and 18, is executed with similar taste and skill, it will be well worth the playgoer's time and attention.



Albert Ruesga (L) and Mark Schafer (R) in "The Collection." (Photo courtesy of Dramashop.)

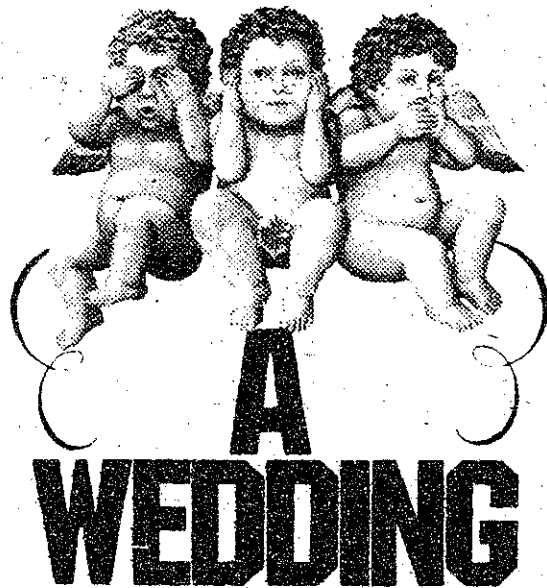
The living laser

By Todd Chase

The laser has been an important tool of man since its invention. Lasers can be used to treat cancer, aim guns and missiles, and as a communication medium in the telephone system. Like every tool, however, the laser needs a night off; and what a night off it is at the Laserium. Laserium is the new, high-powered, psychedelic form of entertainment now playing at the Hayden Planetarium at the Boston Museum of Science.

A one watt Krypton gas laser is used in conjunction with electronic and optical devices to make incredible moving patterns of color which pulsate and swirl with the background music. Some of the more notable songs were "Tank" by Emerson, Lake & Palmer, "Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun" by Pink Floyd, "Timesteps" and "Selections from Suite No. 2 in B Minor" by Walter Carlos of

(Please turn to page 7)



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ON CAMPUS: Wednesday, November 1



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Time Passages not sublime passages

By Joel West

Take a few uninspired lyrics, fold in 20 minutes of instrumental solos, blend in 1 cup of alto sax, and homogenize well for 45 minutes. What you end up with is Al Stewart's latest album, *Time Passages*.

This is Stewart's first release of new material in two years. The success of *Year of the Cat* made his name a familiar one to radio listeners; consequently, he has a new label (Arista) and corresponding concert ticket prices. Unfortunately, the old talented Al Stewart has remained at Janus records; what Arista has to offer us may sell a few more singles, but is likely to lose most of Stewart's old fans.

One of the main attractions of Al Stewart's records has been the quality of his lyrics. While many songwriters recount

endless broken hearts or perverse sexual predilections, Stewart wrote an entire album chronicling the 20th century: *Past, Present, and Future* is a model in thematic unity. Similarly, the first-person *Love Chronicles* (rereleased in last year's *The Early Years*) is a highly personal approach to a common enough theme in pop music: the title track will never receive substantial airplay, due as much to its length (over 10 minutes) as its inclusion of one of the "Seven Deadly Words."

One of the two singles from the album, "Time Passages," starts the album out on a mundane note. A long song (6:39), it contains extensive instrumental filler; the remaining vocal passages say nothing. The pattern is repeated over and over again: 30 seconds of prelude, a long interlude, and a

45 second postlude; the overall impression is that the vocal material is the filler. This is a stark contrast to "On the Border" (from *Year of the Cat*), which opens with a powerful piano solo that leads into a story of gunrunning during the Spanish Civil War.

"The Palace of Versailles" is probably the oldest song on the album; Stewart introduced the song to concert audiences during his summer tour a year ago. Though there is a coherent idea to the number, it is subordinated to the instrumental passages: a long interlude plus an equally lengthy fade-out comprise more than half the song.

Without a message, there's not much left to distinguish Al Stewart from countless other FM-oriented U.S. recording artists. His instrumental writing for keyboard and

guitar are o.k., but his bass guitarist and drummer must be pretty bored by now. The sax, once a charming closing to "Year of the Cat," loses its effect through overuse; he certainly didn't need to add a string section. Although Stewart's voice is somewhat better than Bob Dylan's, the image of Stewart as a Glasgow Dylan is not entirely inappropriate. Understandably, Al Stewart sought to break out of the mold of his past with this album, but in doing so, he cast himself in the mold of other, less creative rock musicians.

For those who have not entirely given up on Al Stewart, his current tour will bring him to Boston on November 5. Ticket prices are \$8.50 and \$7.50, and are available Mon.-Fri., 10am-4pm at the Music Hall, downtown.

Laserium show

(Continued from page 6)

"Switched on Bach" fame, and the inevitable "The Blue Danube" by Strauss.

"Tand" starts at the beginning of Carl Palmer's powerful drum solo which features three strangely shaped objects excitedly bouncing off each other as drums were hit and cymbals crashed. Another song entitled "Pepper Box," performed, coincidentally, by The Peppers, includes four five pointed stars literally grooving around the planetarium dome. The background is supplied by the planetarium's own projector, giving the effect of being in outer space. At times the stars in the heavens were rotating so quickly, one got the feeling of motion.

One of the most spectacular effects occurs during "The Blue Danube." Similar in appearance to the space station in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, a large ring appears and begins to rotate slowly. Soon two other rings appear within the largest one, each placed at a 90 degree angle with its nearest

neighbor. Throughout the song, the rings change in size and shape, at times resulting in beautiful patterns.

The most striking element of Laserium, however, is its lack of structure. Unlike other forms of entertainment, the Laserium does not force the viewer to do anything, or even think in any special way in order to enjoy the show. One may just as easily use the concert to relax as to achieve a drugless high. In any event, one walks out of the Laserium feeling like an extraordinary event has just taken place. I urge anyone who can afford the \$3.50 admission fee to go and enjoy themselves and perhaps even learn something about themselves.

Showtimes are: Thursdays at 7:00, 8:15, and 9:30pm, Fridays at 9:30, and 10:45pm, Saturdays at 5:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30 and 10:45pm, and Sundays at 5:30, 7:00 and 8:15pm. Tickets may be purchased at the planetarium box office and all Ticketron outlets. For more information call 723-4586.

happenings

AROUND MIT

The MIT Symphony, David Epstein, conductor; Ellen Hassman, cello soloist. Korngold's Overture; Dvorak's Cello Concerto in A Major; and Schubert's Symphony No. 3 in D Major. St., Oct. 21, Kresge. \$1 at the door, free tickets in Lobby 10.

Death of a Salesman, the MIT Community Players in Kresge Little Theatre, Oct. 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28 at 8pm, with matinee Oct. 22 & 28 at 3pm. Tickets \$3.50 at the door, \$3 in advance. For info call: x3-4720.

Much Ado About Nothing and Romeo and Juliet will be performed by the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble. *Much Ado* will run on Oct. 26, 28 & 30; *Romeo and Juliet* will run on Oct. 27, 29 & 31. On Thurs., Sun., Mon., and Tues. all seats cost \$2. On Fri. and Sat. seats cost \$3.50 and \$4, with a \$1

student discount. Tickets are available at the door or in Lobby 10. All performances begin at 7:45pm in the Sala. For information call 253-2903.

AT THE MOVIES

This weekend's LSC lineup:

2001: A Space Odyssey Fri. at 7 & 10pm, Sat. at 2, 7 & 10pm.

Seven Samurai (Classic) Fri. 7:30 in 10-250.

The Lavender Hill Mob Sun., 6:30 & 9pm, 10-250.

IN THEATRE

The Crucible, Arthur Miller's drama, will open the Emerson Theatre Company's 1978-79 season. Performances are through Sun., Oct. 15, and Tues., Oct. 17 through Sun., Oct. 22 at the Emerson College Theatre, 130 Beacon St. Tickets are \$2.50; for information call: 536-0862.

the Coop

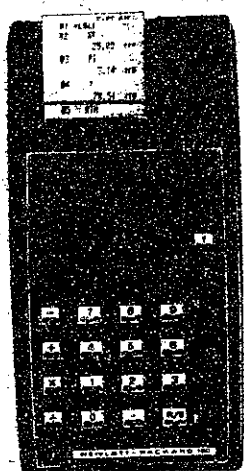
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ALL SHOWS IN 26-100

Tax status may hurt frats

By Ron Newman

"This, like many legal questions, has the potential to screw us royally," said Joe Chapman '79, chairman of the MIT Interfraternity Conference, at last Wednesday's IFC meeting.

What's worrying Chapman, and many other people connected with MIT's fraternity system, is an ambiguity in the enabling legislation for Massachusetts' Classification Amendment, which will be Question One on the November 7th ballot. The Amendment, if passed, would allow cities and towns to tax up to four different "classes" of properties at different rates. An enabling act, HR 6054, defines the four classes of property as "commercial," "open space," "residential," and "industrial and manufacturing."

But this usually precise statute, which devotes over a page to the careful definition of those four terms, has a hole just big enough for a fraternity to fall through. HR 6054's definition section ends with the sentence, "Residential property shall not include a hotel, motel or lodging house." The statute fails to define "lodging house."

Lowell Richards, Deputy Director of Fiscal Affairs for the City of Boston, claims that the reference to lodging houses "slipped into" the bill, and would be

ignored by the city. But such statements from city officials fail to reassure Chapman and other fraternity people.

In order to operate at all, according to Chapman, fraternities are required to buy "lodging house licenses" from the city due to the large number of unrelated people living together in them. And under Classification, the difference between residential and commercial taxes will be substantial: a building worth \$100,000 on the open market would pay \$8960 tax as a residence, but \$12,800 as a commercial property under Boston's current tax rate of \$256 per \$1000 of assessed value.

But fraternity residents can ill afford to dismiss classification just because of this risk. In next month's election, the alternative to classification will be not the status quo, but rather "100% valuation" — a court-ordered scheme to tax all property at the same rate regardless of its use. A recent study prepared for the Massachusetts Mayor's Association estimates that under 100% valuation, residential property owners (and indirectly, renters) will have to pay \$265 million in property taxes that are now paid by business.

(Next week: A look at the history of 100% valuation and the growing statewide opposition to it.)

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THE UA NEWS

The next meeting of the General Assembly will be this coming Thursday evening (October 26) at 7:00pm in room 400 of the Student Center.

The topics to be discussed this week are: the eleven college conference that is currently in its planning stages; the possibility of joint ventures with other colleges in the greater Boston area; the Tuition Assistance Fund and several possibilities for UA Social events.

Also, in the near future the UA will be sponsoring Wednesday Afternoon Social Hours with Faculty and Students to discuss specific topics in an informal environment. The first of these will be titled "The Student-Faculty Link-How can we increase communication at MIT?" Check the UA bulletin board for details.

NomComm Hearings

Monday October 23, 1978

7:00pm IAP Policy Committee

This committee was established to deal with policy matters and the continued evaluation of the Independent Activities Period, and to work closely with the Committee on Educational Policy in reviewing IAP within the context of the total academic environment. It reports fully to the faculty at intervals of not more than four years.

7:30pm Ad-Hoc Committee on International Institutional Commitments

The committee shall review the scale and nature of MIT's international contractual commitments for educational and/or research or service (whether at MIT or abroad) and report to the faculty. The committee shall stand ready on request to consult with the administration or faculty initiators of projects that involve such international commitments. The committee shall make a final report at the end of its term. This report shall include a recommendation as to the committee's continuation on a permanent basis.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions relating to the UA call Barry Newman or Tim Morgenthauer at x3-2696.

Get Involved Now!

Looking back

MIT now only has a club football team but for many years the only football here was the freshman-sophomore competition in Field Day. An article on some of the other events of Field Day and the traditions surrounding them will be appearing soon in *The Tech*. (Photo from *MIT in Perspective*.)

notes

* '79 R/O Co-ordinator. The office of Freshman Advising will soon be selecting an R/O co-ordinator for 1979. This person has the responsibility of co-ordinating activities including the freshman picnic, academic orientation, athletic and activities midways, orientation programs for special groups, tours, and many others. There is a fair amount of time which must be put in during the academic year and a large amount of time during the summer of '79. The R/O co-ordinator will receive \$1000 and a great deal of experience. For further information, come to a meeting in 7-105 on Tuesday, October 24 at noon or Wednesday, November 1 at 5pm.

* The MIT Marching Band will hold its first rehearsal on Sunday, October 22, at 3:15pm in Rehearsal Room A of Kresge Auditorium. Anyone interested may attend. For further information contact Roger Slyk x5-6267 (494-8772) or Lee Silverman x5-6267.

* This year's 2.70 design contest is "The Brass Rat Race." The preliminary round of the single elimination tournament will be held in Room 26-100 at noon on Tuesday, October 24. Final eliminations will be on Thursday, October 26, at the same time and place.

* The Black Rose Lecture Series will present Jan McDaniel speaking on "Children's Rights in School: The Third Revolution," in Room 9-150 on Friday, October 20 at 8pm. Admission is free. For further information, please call 492-6259.

* The next ASA General Committee meeting is on Monday, October 23 at 7:30 pm in room 4-145. All clubs which have not submitted new officers lists by that meeting are subject to derecognition.

classified advertising

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It's going to cost a lot of money. Before you get a dime of salary, whoever hires you will have to buy tools, office space, factory equipment and buildings—the things it takes to let you do your job. The average cost to companies is now \$45,300 for each job.

We don't mean you can't be hired until your employer finds exactly \$45,300. You might walk into an existing job. But don't count on it. Not with 17,000,000 competitors. Some companies can hire you for less than \$45,300. But others—heavy industry, for instance—need much more. At Armco, our cost is now \$57,520 a job.

That money must come from whatever a company has left over after expenses. In other words, from profits. A company might borrow against future profits to make you a job. But still, profits pay for jobs because that's the only source companies have.

If you asked your friends how much the average U.S. company clears in profits on each dollar of sales, chances are many of them would guess 25¢ or more. The truth is 5¢ or less. That's not much to put to work to make new jobs.

Plain talk about PROFITS

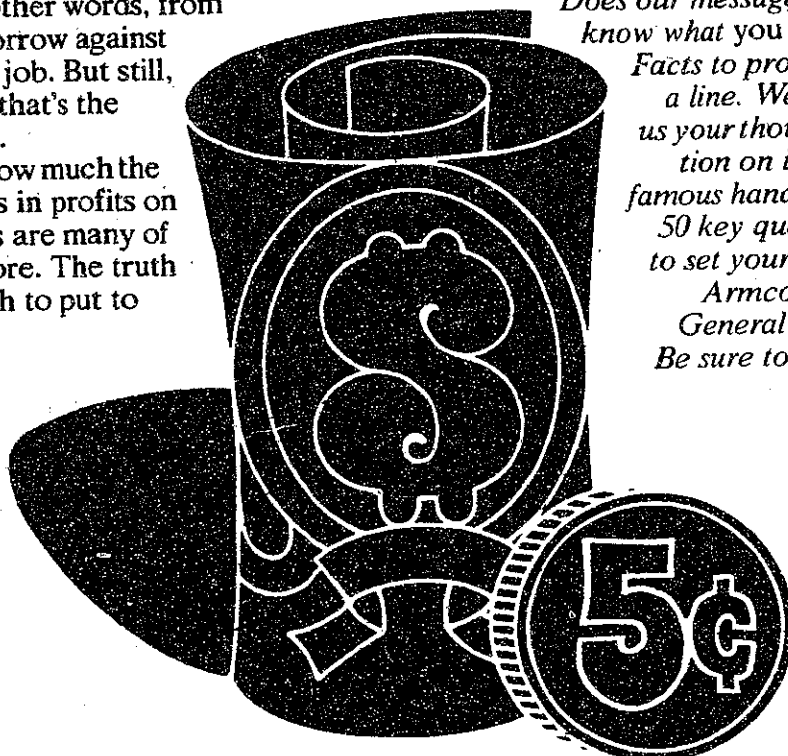
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Mountaineering #5.

REGULATION GARB

You, a faithful follower of this space, have been a mountaineer for some time now. You've studied the fundamentals, selected your gear and experimented with methodology. In short, you are nobody's fool. Nonetheless, you also know a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. So you want to learn more. Smart thinking.

First, you must realize that once the basics of mountaineering are mastered, it is only nuance which distinguishes the true artists from the merely adequate. Therefore, attention to detail, especially in matters of clothing, is vital.

Always protect the head according to seasonal fluctuations. In winter, a warm hat is mandatory. (The head, after all, is the chimney of the body. Avoid cerebral heat loss — it diminishes your psychophysio abilities.) In summertime, a sun visor or a billed cap will guarantee crucial visibility among the craggy peaks.

Pay particular regard to your footgear. Shoes should be sturdy and stable. A secure footing is of utmost importance. Without it, you're asking for trouble. Point of order: while mountaineering is pursued for fun, it is neverthe-

less serious business. If you are going to down the mountains, rather than vice versa, you must be confident of your standing.

Between the head and the feet lies the area known to pros as "the body." Mountaineering bodywear is usually based on personal preference. However, keep a keen eye out for one common criterion. Your clothes should be comfortable and flexible, allowing for open movement, specifically in the vicinity of the arms. A free and responsive arm is a mountaineer's best friend.

Certain accessories, of course, complement and complete the regulation garb. Expedition flags to mark your territory in public places, connecting ropes for those who prefer the security of mountaineering in tandem and backpacks filled with beer nuts, mugs, bottle openers and other paraphernalia. Beyond these standards, wardrobe styles range from the rustic to the refined. And well they might, for mountaineers are a rugged and individual lot, joined only by a common taste for excellence.



BUSCH®

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sports cont.

Ruggers upset Dartmouth

By Connie Cotton

The MIT Women's Rugby Club claimed an impressive third victory of the season Sunday afternoon at Briggs Field by annihilating the visiting club from Dartmouth, 48-0. Tech dominated the game from start to finish, but Dartmouth became tougher the more they fell behind and the match was a rough one.

MIT maintained possession of the ball throughout most of the game, but on the few occasions that Dartmouth managed to get the ball, Tech's defense prevented all attempts at a score. With a half-time lead of 28-0, MIT came back in the second half determined to achieve their second shut-out of the season.

While the entire team played well, the spotlight for achievement must shine on the MIT backs. The backs executed quick, well-timed passes offensively, and they covered the field so well in their defensive effort that there were no gaps through Dartmouth might score. The Tech forwards had problems in the set scrum, but they were very effective in getting the ball in loose rucks and mauls. Wing-forward Katherine Thomas '79 played a particularly good game, gaining valuable yardage every time she carried the ball.

Tech's backs provided the eleven scores of the game, with Nancy Breen '80 leading the field with seven out of the eleven tries. Moved from her usual inside-

center position to the wing, Breen spent the afternoon dazzling her fans and teammates and demolishing the opposition. An excellent runner and a determined player, Breen scored 28 of MIT's 48 points in the game. Outside center Sue Stulz '80 contributed two goals, and fly-half Connie Cepko and scrum-half Barbara Kasting each scored once. The remaining four points were the result of two successful conversion attempts by fullback Laurie Spillane.

The Women's Rugby Club has made great progress in the eighteen months it has existed at MIT. As Captain Connie Cepko stated,

"We have gone from not even being able to field a full team a year ago to being the equal of any women's rugby team in the area." Coach David Hanrahan G, when asked if he thought the women's club had improved in both their understanding and playing of the game, smiled and responded, "When's the last time the club won 48-0?"

The women ruggers travel to Yale and Hartford for their next two weekends where they hope to add two more victories to their 3-0-1 record. The next home game for the women's club is Nov. 4 when they host friendly rival Portland Women's Rugby Club.



Women ruggers jump for a lineout during their game against Dartmouth. (Photo by Gordon R. Haff.)

M. rugby calls it clobberin' time

By Tom Bryant

(Editor's Note: Tom Bryant G is the MIT Rugby Football Club Coach.)

Last Saturday, the MIT Rugby Club had its best victory in years. They defeated the Boston Gentlemen 30-6. Unlike former matches, including the New England Championship of 1974, this game featured a surfeit of tries. The Beaver Ruckers put together six of them, the highest total for an MIT RFC A-Side in at least four years.

On a rainy day, with several glorious puddles available, MIT displayed a remarkably open and fast-paced style. Several good gains were made by the backs, particularly by Jim Barber G in his first game on the left wing. After a miserable first half which saw several knock-ons, full-back Tom Bryant G and fly-half Dan Seigal G began to set up the forwards with well-placed kicks and quick counter-attacks. For their part, the forwards had the best day of the season by far. A strong well-balanced pack consistently outmailed and outshoved a larger group of Gentlemen.

The six points for the Gentlemen came from penalty goals, the first time in quite a while that the MIT side has refused to yield a single try. In fact, the Gentlemen were within ten meters of MIT's line only once in the match.



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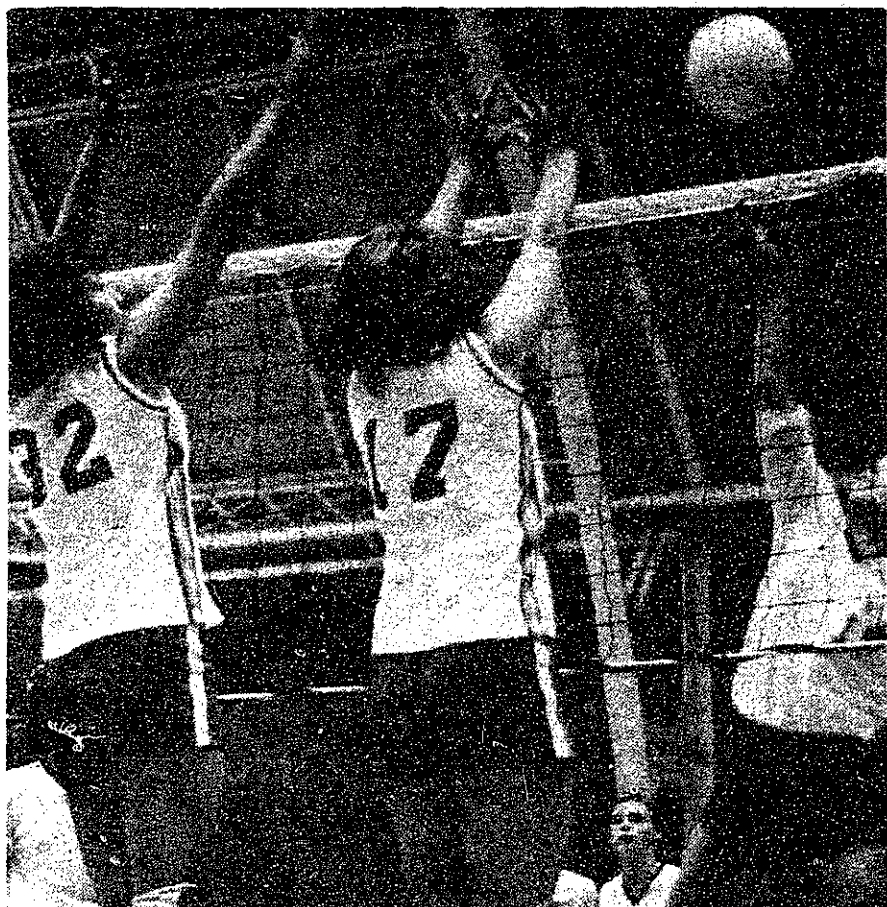
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sports



Karen Samuelson '81 tips the ball over Bridgewater's front line in last Thursday's match. (Photo by Gary S. Engleson.)

Volleyball whips Wellesley testing their new offense

By Rich Auchus

The MIT volleyball team was blanked at two weekend tournaments and dropped a 3-2 decision to Bridgewater last Thursday. Coach Dave Castanon reorganized the offense in order to make better use of his three experienced players, particularly Karen Samuelson '81 with her setting and hitting abilities.

The new offense paid off Thursday night as Tech routed Wellesley, 3-1. In the first game, Tech compensated for a sloppy start with good spikes and setups. The Beavers dominated the weak Wellesley hitters and built up an 11-2 lead. Wellesley rallied, but MIT held on to win 15-13. Tech recovered from a 7-4 deficit in game two with 10 unanswered points in route to a 15-8 victory. Tied 9-9 in the third contest, the team began to get careless and fell apart, losing 15-9. Wellesley kept its momentum going in game four, but Tech battled back from the short side of a 7-2 score with sharp setups and effective scoring hits, led by Kathy Chrien '80. MIT went on to win, 15-10.

During the first two games, Adra Smith '80, Samuelson and Chrien found holes in the Wellesley secondary with very effective offensive hitting. This offense deteriorated late in the third game

when the women began to get in each other's way and to fail to set up plays properly. Chrien and Smith came through in the final contest with clutch plays to preserve the victory.

Coach Castanon noted that the new offense has shown better movement and that the women are playing much better with it. The new offense provides the consistency which they lacked earlier, especially by allowing them to attack better. Chrien commented that the new setup requires more running and thinking; this prevents the girls from getting nervous and stiff. This complements well the already fine defensive play that the girls have shown. The team is hindered by a lack of height, but the new offense is narrowing the gap.

"Head" opens crew season

By Cindy Cole

Editor's Note: Cindy Cole is a member of the Women's Crew Team.

This Sunday, for the annual Head of the Charles Regatta, the river will be crowded with crew shells of every description. Singles, doubles, pairs, fours and eights will each have their turn to file past the BU Boathouse and race three miles upriver. Through bridges and around bends, the race is as much a test of the coxswains' agility as of the oarsmen's endurance.

Patterned after the many English "Head of the River" races, this type of race allows many more boats to compete over a longer, more challenging course. More than 100 schools and rowing clubs from all over North America participate in this first big race of the season.

The varsity women will be hoping to improve their 4th place finish in last year's Women's Eights' race.

The Women's Four consisting of Bow Liz Fisher '80, Two Joan Whitten '80, Three Cindy Cole

'79, Stroke Diane Medved '80 and Coxswain Debbie Utke '80 raced together for the first time last Saturday. They emerged victorious from a hotly contested race with St. Catharines, a prestigious Canadian rowing club. This is the squad's first trophy since a similar four won the Patsy Bisceglia Cup two years ago.

Due to restrictions on the number of entries per school in one event, the women will also be rowing in the men's Junior Eights race. Jenny Kern '79, returning veteran stroke from last spring, will be stroking the eight.

In the men's division, the Varsity Heavyweights are boating a Club eight, and Elite four, stroked for the second year by George Florentine '80, and a pair.

The lightweight men, under their new coach Tom Howes, are entering a Light eight and a Light four.

Hartley Rogers, Assistant Provost at MIT, will be defending his 3rd place finish in the Veteran Singles. Two graduates, Dennis Lynch '72 and Mike Neff '76, will

be rowing a double scull. Head Coach Pete Holland predicted they would be "smooth but slow."

The annual reunion of the 1973 Varsity Heavyweight Boat will again take place when they all gather to row in the final event of the day, the Elite eights. Although in their heyday they were one of the fastest crews MIT has ever seen, two years ago they beat the winning women's eight by a mere .7 seconds. Undaunted they returned last year to smash the fastest women's eight by almost a full length.

The race extends from BU's dock to the WBZ tower on Soldiers Field Road. Good vantage points include any of the 6 bridges, the finish line or along the shore near Harvard. Boats will proceed up the right side of the river at 10 second intervals and will be numbered consecutively for identification. Unofficial race results will be available at the finish line.

Come on out to the banks of the Charles to cheer MIT's crews to their first wins of the season.

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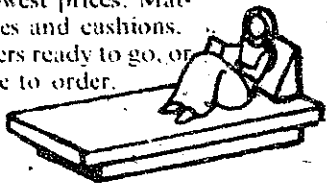
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